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Pakistan Society of Religions: A Brief Introduction

Pakistan Society of Religions (PSR) is an Islamabad based academic forum to the study of Religion and Thought. It was established under the auspices of eminent scholars of the field in March 2017. This forum aims to promote quality research and studies in the discipline of Comparative Religion and Thought and its related areas including, Inter-religious Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, Harmony and Relations, ‘Ilm al-Kalām, Comparative Mysticism, Orientalism, Transnational Islam, Human and Minorities Rights, Modern and Western Thought, Theology, Sociology, Psychology and Philosophy of Religion etc. In addition, an important objective of this forum is to create awareness about rights and responsibilities of minorities to inculcate a sense of tolerance among masses. Not only will it create a peaceful society but will also ensure the safety and security of all minorities in Islamic Republic of Pakistan. To meet the objectives, a number of scholars have been joining the forum from various national and international academic institutions. Under the umbrella of this forum, the steps to be undertaken include the analysis of interfaith studies in Pakistan and adoption of critical and analytical approaches to improve the quality and quantity of research. In this regard, a Prime Pakistan’s Research Journal titled, “**Al-Milal: Journal of Religion and Thought (AMJRT)**” (ISSN; 2663-4392) has been published since June 2019. Moreover, different theses, books and monographs will be published in the field of comparative religion and thought, as well as seminars, conferences and workshops will be conducted in respective fields. Therefore, interested scholars, researchers and students, who are passionate about this field of study, are requested to contribute their efforts by sharing their academic work and ideas, and investing their human and capital resources to help us flourish. We will acknowledge the shared efforts by making them active part of this academic forum for the study of religions and thoughts. The forum needs, for this esteemed project, researchers, reviewers and consultants, who will voluntarily share their views, feedback, input and advice to improve the quality of the research. As believers of teamwork, we equally say warm welcome to those who want to join this great academic journey. Thanks

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A Note from Patron In-Chief of the Journal

Praise Be to Allah (*Alhamdulillah*), it gives me great pleasure to introduce and welcome you to *Al-Milal: Journal of Religion and Thought*. I hope this journal will fill a serious gap which has existed in academia in Pakistan rather the whole region. It will provide a serious platform for intellectual dialogue at a global level. Ultimately, I believe this Journal of Religion and Thought will play an imperative role in developing a comprehensive and sympathetic understanding of religion and thought with the purpose of upholding and promoting the ideals of peace, justice and mutual respect and diversity in our society.

I appreciate the effort and hard work of the editorial board, which consists of young scholars and skilled and talented academicians for their tireless contribution and effort to make *Al-Milal: Journal of Religion and Thought* a reality. I also appreciate co-operation of reviewers, who provided invaluable peer review to ensure the academic standard of the articles. Lastly, it is encouraging to see how major projects can be realized when people work collaboratively. In time, this journal will be a recognized forum for learning and exchanges of ideas in the fields of inter-religious and inter-cultural thought, In sha Allah.

Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad

Vice Chancellor

Riphah International University, Islamabad

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Scope of the Journal

- ☼ Contemporary world has witnessed rapid changes in the tenor of human thought in general, and of religious thought in particular. Many religious and spiritual issues have become complex for today's world. Answers to these diverse issues can only be sought through pure and practical research in the field of Religion and Thought. There is also a dire need to reaffirm that the revelation of God is the solution to these issues. To keep with the pace of the challenging scenario, Pakistan Society of Religions -Islamabad has launched its research journal, 'Al-Milal', which aims to facilitate research scholars in creating comprehensive and global understanding of religions and modern thought to endorse harmony, respect and diversity.
- ☼ 1. The research journal, Al-Milal, is based on Islamic thought of a renowned Muslim theologian, Muhammad b. 'Abdul Karīm al-Shahrastānī (1086-1158 CE), and the name of the journal is derived from his historic book on the study of religions, al-Milal wa'l-nihal (Religions and Creeds). The vibrant objective of Al-Milal is to excite scholars in enhancing research across religions through various philosophical, sociological and psychological perspectives.
- ☼ 2. Another purpose of this journal is to facilitate research scholars in creating a comprehensive and global understanding of religions. Therefore, the research journal ought to have dynamics of critical and analytical approach to explore religious teachings and their application among religious zeal of scholarship
- ☼ 3. It aspires to generate an intellectual edge of reference for the academic study of religion and thought, its approaches and social phenomenon. In addition, it seeks to promote interdisciplinary debate on the role of religion and its interactions with culture and society.
- ☼ 4. Moreover, it seeks to address the current issues of the society with social, psychological, political and economic frameworks, while keeping them grounded in scientific methods, in order that proper solutions are discovered for the noble purpose of benefitting humanity.
- ☼ 5. Lastly, this journal facilitates to develop close linkage between national and international intellectuals to enhance and improve scholarly research in solving problems related to religious issues concerning the individual & the society.

Editorial Policy

- ❖ **Al-Milal** is a research journal purely based on Interfaith Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, Theology, Orientalism and Comparative Study of Religions, as these topics have central importance in the world of knowledge and research. Editorial policy regarding articles to be published is outlined below:
- ❖ Articles should be within the scope of journal and should be relevant to the field of the study of world religions, such as 'Interfaith Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, Inter-Civilizational and Inter-Cultural Dialogue, 'Ilm Al-Kalām, Comparative Sufism, Orientalism, Modern & Western Thought, Theology, Philosophy, Sociology and Psychology of Religions etc. Similarly, biography of religious personalities and analytical study and discussion on books of religions and religious thought are also welcomed.
- ❖ **Al-Milal** shall be published twice a year (in June & December). Authors can submit their work throughout the year. An acceptance message will be sent to the author.
- ❖ Research articles for publication will be forwarded for peer review to four referees, two National and two International.
- ❖ **Al-Milal** strictly follows the criteria/guidelines advised by HEC Islamabad, Pakistan for publication process and review.
- ❖ Decision of the Editorial Board regarding acceptance or rejection of the article will be considered as final.
- ❖ Editorial Committee reserves the right to recommend necessary amendments with minor/major changes or cancellation of the articles. Editor shall inform the writers with the opinion of the evaluators for incorporation of recommended necessary changes if any.
- ❖ All research articles published in **Al-Milal** express the viewpoints of the respective authors. Hence, each article is the sole responsibility of the writers while Editorial Board and PSR bear no responsibility in this regard. However, AMJRT appreciates the freedom of expression with in legal and moral boundaries.
- ❖ Articles, once sent to **Al-Milal**, shall not be returned in any case, whether published or otherwise, except with the permission of the Editorial Board.
- ❖ One hard copy of **Al-Milal** (Research Journal) would be given to each author and more can be taken with prescribed payment.
- ❖ A small publication fee for article will also be charged at the time of publication.

Publication Guidelines

General Guidelines

- ⊗ Article should not have been published anywhere else.
- ⊗ Article should be in accordance with the research principles and should be on a new topic. Moreover, the article should be adorned with references of basic sources and should not be infringed.
- ⊗ It is necessary to observe the rules for grammar and proof reading.
- ⊗ Three hard copies and one soft copy are required.
- ⊗ Article may be written in Urdu, English or Arabic languages.
- ⊗ It is necessary to avoid errors and omissions.
- ⊗ In plagiarism the HEC Policy of 19% will be strictly follows.
- ⊗ The ownership of paper belongs to journal after publication.
- ⊗ All comments and views which are published in paper are property of the authors, however the journal appreciates the freedom of expression with in legal and moral framework.

Directions for Authors

1. Article should be composed on one side of A4 paper with standard margin size. It should be between 12 to 20 pages.
2. A typical paper for this journal should be no more than 7000 words, inclusive of tables, references, figure captions, footnotes, endnotes, etc.
3. We don't have specific guidelines for the content of review, preferring to allow reviewer's opinions fairly free rein. However, there is an editing process in which the editorial team may request revisions.
4. While composing the article, following font sizes must be used:
 - (i) For matter, font size: (Urdu & Arabic:14, English:12)
 - (ii) For main-headings, font size: (Urdu & Arabic:16, English:14)
 - (iii) For sub-heading, font size: (Urdu & Arabic:14, English:12)
 - (iv) For foot note, font size:(Urdu & Arabic:12, English:10)
 - (v) Use "Times New Roman" for English.
 - (vi) Use "Jameel Noori Nastaleeq" for Urdu.
 - (vii) Use "Traditional Arabic" for Arabic.
5. Line space will be 1.5.
6. Article should contain the following **sections**:

1. Abstract

It should contain summary regarding research. Abstract must be written in English language. (Around 200 to 350 words with five keywords)

2. Introduction

Introduction must include objective, methodology, distinctive characteristics of the research work, and conclusion.

3. Literature Review

The paper should highlight the previous work done in this field of study.

4. Discussion

In this part of the article, author would present his views and research in detail.

5. Conclusion

Conclusion should be presented in a clear and logical sequence.

6. Recommendations:

Article should also include comprehensive recommendations at the end of the study for further academic study/solution of the issue.

7. References

References should be made according to the following guidelines:

- (i) References should be made as Footnotes.
- (ii) While giving references, *Chicago 16th Manual Style* should be adopted.
- (iii) While referring to a book, author's name, name of the book, publisher's name & place and year of publication and then Volume No/ Page no. must be clearly mentioned.

Following example may be followed:

Ibn Kathīr, *'Imād Al-Dīn, Tafsīr Al-Qur'ān Al- 'Aẓīm* (Beirut: Dār al-Şādir, 1354 A.H.), 2/312.

- (iv) For similar references at multiple locations, traditional style of abbreviations may be used.

Qureshi, *The Messenger of God and the Law of Blasphemy in Islam*, 89.

- (v) Revealed Books like Qur'ānic and Biblical verses in the article are presented in original (Arabic, Hebrew, English) script.
- (vi) Symbols or Qur'ānic verses and Hadith also will be mentioned;

﴿...﴾, ((.....)), <<.....>>

- (vii) Method of citation would be as below:

Al-Quran 2:184

Genesis 5:6,

Mathew 3:15

- (viii) All Āḥādīth should be briefly interpreted and they also should be authentic.

Example for this format is as under:

Muḥammad b. Ismā'īl al-Bukhārī, *al-jāmi' al-ṣaḥīḥ* (Lahore: Dār as-salām, 1414 A.H), Ḥadīth: 516, 2:13.

- (ix) Research paper's article will be cited as below: Jacques Warrdensburg, "Religious Pluralism and Citizenship", *The Encounters* 4, no. 1 (1998):126-147.

- (x) Published books will be cited as mentioned below: Michael, H. Hart, *The*

100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History (New York: Kensington Publishing Corporation, 1992), 3.

- (xi) All Quotations shorter than four lines should be in inverted commas:
“All praises to Almighty Allah the most merciful the most beneficent”
- (xii) Website references will be cited as below:
Influence of Western Civilization on Islam:
<http://westernizationandislam.weebly.com>, accessed on June 27, 2018.
- (xiii) Online published books or papers will be cited as under:
Ali Marzūī, “Islamic and Western Values”, *Foreign Affairs* 76, no. 5 (1997): 118-132; <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/1997-09-01>
- (xiv) Reports will be cited as below: United Nation’s *General Assembly Report on Freedom of Assembly and Association*, (Washington: Human Rights Council, 2012), 5, www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/A-HRC-20-27
- (xv) Theses reference will be given below;
Riaz Ahmad Saeed, *Freedom of Expression in Islamic and Modern Western Thought: A Comparative Study* (master's thesis, University of the Punjab, 2017), 118.
- (xvi) All un-known personalities, terms and places mentioned in the article must be briefly introduced and references from books should also be quoted in footnote of the paper.
- (xvii) Interview will be cited as below:
John Smith, Interview by author, Tape recording. New York City, March 5, 2019.

8. Paper Compilation:

Your paper should be compiled in the following order: Title Page, Abstract, Introduction to the study , Materials and Methods; Literature Review, discussion, analysis ,Conclusion, Recommendation, Declaration of interest statement, References; Appendices (as appropriate), Table(s) with caption(s) (on individual pages); Figures; figure captions (as a list).

Editorial Board

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Transliteration Table

Urdu				Arabic				Urdu Digraphs	
ا	a	ص	ṣ	ا	A	ف	F	بھ	Bh
ب	b	ض	Ẓ	ب	B	ق	Q	پھ	Ph
پ	p	ط	ṭ	ت	T	ك	K	تھ	Th
ت	t	ظ	ẓ	ث	Th	ل	L	ٹھ	Th
ٹ	ṭ	ع	‘	ج	J	م	M	جھ	Jh
ث	th	غ	Gh	ح	ḥ	ن	N	چھ	Ch
ج	J	ف	F	خ	kh	و	W	دھ	Dh
چ	ch	ق	Q	د	d	ھ	H	ڈھ	Dh
ح	ḥ	ک	K	ذ	dh	ء	’	ڑھ	Rh
خ	kh	گ	G	ر	r	ي	Y	کھ	Kh
د	d	ل	L	ز	z			گھ	Gh
ڈ	ḍ	م	M	س	s				
ذ	dh	ن	N	ش	sh				
ر	r	ں	N	ص	ṣ				
ڑ	ṛ	و	V	ض	ḍ				
ز	z	ہ	H	ط	ṭ				
ژ	ẓ	ء	’	ظ	ẓ				
س	s	ی	Y	ع	‘				
ش	sh	ے	Y	غ	gh				

Short Vowels (AR-UR)		Long Vowels (AR-UR)		Diphthongs			
				Arabic		Urdu	
اَ	a	اِ / اِی	á	اُ	Aw	او	Au
اِ	i	اَ / اِ	ā	اِی	Ay	اِی	Ai
اُ	u	اِی	ī	اِی	Ayy		
		اِو	ū	اِی	Iyy		
		اُو	ō (ur)	اِو	Uww		
		اِے	ē (ur)				

- Letter (ء) is not transliterated when at the beginning.
- Article (ال) is transliterated as (al-), and as (’l) in construct form, whether followed by a moon or a sun letter.
- (اَہ) is transliterated as (ah) in pause form and as (at) in construct form.
- (و) as an Urdu conjunction is transliterated as (o).

Contributor's Introduction

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1.	Hafiz Waqas Khan	Lecturer, Riphah International University, Islamabad
2.	Hafiz Muhammad Shariq	Lecturer, Federal Urdu University of Science Arts and Technology, Karachi
3.	Dr. Abdul Hameed Arain	Lecturer, Govt. College of Commerce and Arts Hyderabad, Sindh
4.	Mr. Muhammad Mudassir	Lecturer, Govt. Degree College Dinga, Gujarat
5.	Dr. Muhammad Tayyib Usmani	Lecturer, Govt. Murray College Sialkot
6.	Mr. Saeed-ul-aq Jadoon & Dr. Saeed-ur-Rehman	PhD Scholar, Abdul Khan University, Mardan , KPK Asst. Professor, Abdul Khan University, Mardan, KPK
7.	Dr. Samina Nasir	Faculty Member, Bacon House School System, Rawalpindi
8.	Mr. Muhammad Zulqarnain	Lecturer, NUML-Islamabad
9.	Dr. Caroline Nkoberanyi	Lecturer, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi
10.	Dr. Riaz Ahmad Saeed	Lecturer, NUML-Islamabad

Editorial

In the name of Allah, the most beneficent the most merciful.

*All praise unto Him Almighty and His blessings upon His last Prophet Muhammad ﷺ,
who is sent as mercy for universe.*

Religion and thought have become increasingly significant today, complicating many religious and spiritual issues for a common man. Answers to these can primarily be sought through relevant research in the field of religion and thought, with God's revelation being a researcher's guide. Against the backdrop of this important methodological foundation, Pakistan Society of Religions -Islamabad has launched its research journal, *Al-Milal: Journal of Religion and Thought (AMJRT)*. The Journal aims at facilitating scholars in developing a comprehensive understanding of religion and thought with focus on peace, respect and diversity.

The primary objective of *Al-Milal* is to bring scholars in enhancing research across religions and thought in their domains like the theological, spiritual, philosophical, sociological and psychological. *Al-Milal* is inspired from the thought of a renowned Muslim theologian, Muḥammad b. 'Abdul Karīm al-Shahrastānī (1086-1158 CE), and named after his historical book on the study of religions, *al-Milal wa'l-Nihal* (Religions and Creeds.) With this reference, another aim of this journal is to bring together research scholars in creating a comprehensive understanding of religions. Therefore, the research journal has dynamics of critical and analytical approach to explore religious teachings and their application in the true Islamic spirit of knowledge.

Alhamdu Lillah, the first issue of AMJRT is being presented here with a diversity of articles. We have received 16 odd papers and 10 of these are finally selected for the first issue on behalf of national and foreign blind peer reviews. The Urdu section contains 7 papers. The first paper is by Hafiz Waqas khan entitled, "Ideological Challenges of Atheism to the Muslim Societies and their Solutions from Islamic Perspective". The second paper is, "Reformation of Moral Philosophy and its foundation in Sīrah of the Prophet Muḥammad (ﷺ)", by Hafiz Muhammad Shariq. The third paper is, "Ethical Vices in Divine Books: A Comparative Study in the Light of Islamic Teachings", by Dr. Abdul Hameed Arain. The fourth paper is, "Islamic Philosophy of Fundamental Rights of Non-Muslim Minorities: A Qur'ānic Perspective", by Mr. Muhammad Muddassar. The fifth paper is, "Sources of Qur'ānic Narrates of Syedah Mariam (AS) (A Critical Analysis of the

Orientalistic Approach”, by Dr. Muhammad Tayyib Usmani. The sixth paper is, “Critiques of Fr. Zakaria Boutros on Noble Sirah of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: A Scholarly Review”, by Mr. Saeed ul Haq Jadoon & Dr. Saeed ul Rehman. The seventh paper is, “Understanding the Importance of Consensus in Islamic Schools of Thought: Overview in the Context of Pakistan”, by Dr. Samina Nasir.

The English and Arabic sections contain a total of three papers. The eighth paper is in Arabic Language and entitled, “Christian Monasticism and Islamic Mysticism and its Impact on Various Aspects of Human Life: An Analysis from Islamic Perspective”, by Mr. Muhammad Zulqarnain. The ninth paper, which is in English language, is presented by an African scholar, Dr. Nkoberanyi Caroline, entitled, “Christian-Muslim Theological Dialogue: A Case of Catholic Universities in East African Universities”, and the tenth and last paper, which is also in English language, is written by Dr. Riaz Ahmad Saeed, entitled, “Western Parameters of Freedom of Expression: A Critique from Islamic Perspective.”

Finally, on behalf of the editorial team of the AMJRT, I would like to say that the journey that started in 2017 from the platform of Pakistan Society of Religions Islamabad (PSR) has now succeeded in publishing the first issue of our research journal online by the grace of Allah. Here, we would like to extend our gratitude to all of our contributors and dedicated members, who helped polish this unique idea of Pakistan’s first research journal on Religion and thought. We also appreciate everyone who helped us on our venture with their physical, intellectual and financial assistance. We are grateful to the respectable members of our advisory board and reviewer panel of the journal, who gave their valuable time and indispensable suggestions for its refinement.

Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to the authors of the first issue who submitted their papers to AMJRT with the knowledge that it is a startup with quite limited resources, and others continue to contact us with the assurance of their continual support and contribution. Last but not least, we are indebted to those who helped us selflessly, including students and teachers. In fact, they worked anonymously and their reward for now is with Allah, the best giver of rewards. Without their support, we couldn’t have come this far. As far as the academic standard of the journal is concerned, we leave it to our readers, whose valuable critique, suggestions and feedback on this humble effort shall always be welcome. Hopefully every forthcoming issue will be better than the previous, In-sha-Allah.

Chief Editor

Al-Milal: Journal of Religion & Thought